



## **TRADITIONAL CORK FLOORING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS** **using EXPANKO Cork Adhesive (trowel applied) -or-** **EXPANKO Water-based Contact Adhesive (roller applied)**

TECHNICAL SUPPORT 800.345.6202

Expanko offers 2 adhesive options for installing cork. PREPARATION of the substrate is the same for either adhesive option.

### **BEFORE INSTALLATION:**

Job site conditions, substrate testing and preparation are critical to the success of a cork floor tile installation. Do not start until you have read *Expanko Pre-installation Guidelines (#010)*. If these guidelines are not followed, installation failure may occur.

- Do not install in buildings that are not climate controlled.
- All concrete floors must be tested for moisture and pH regardless of age or grade level.  
Moisture Vapor Emission Level:  $\leq 3$  lb/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>/24 hrs; pH Level: 7-10
- Recommended for concrete vapor emissions reduction: *Ardex Moisture Control System (MCS)*
- For wood sub-floors, use only approved plywood underlayment. Do not use Luan.
- Substrate shall be flat to within the equivalent of 3/16" in 10'.
- Substrate shall be free of old adhesive, sealers, paint, coatings, finishes, dirt, film-forming curing compounds, or other substances that may affect the adhesion of the flooring.
- Prepare substrates using Ardex patching or underlayment compounds.
  
- ALL MATERIALS INCLUDING CORK TILE AND ADHESIVES MUST BE ON SITE IN THE ROOM WHERE THEY WILL BE INSTALLED IN FOR 72 HOURS BEFORE INSTALLATION.  
KEEP CORK TILES IN SEALED CARTONS.
  
- The following Expanko cork patterns are random and directional: Algarve, Castello, Listra, Thin Mosaic, Wide Mosaic, Topazio, and Viale. Consult the customer about lay out of these products. All other Expanko cork designs are random and non-directional.
  
- Lay out the floor and snap chalk lines as you would for any other tile installation.
- Cork can be laid corner to corner or in an "ashlar" pattern (staggered or brick).

All Expanko products are inspected for quality prior to shipping, but like all natural products cork may change during shipping. DO NOT INSTALL TILES IF THEY ARE OUT OF SQUARE, DEFORMED OR CURLED IN ANYWAY. STOP AND CALL US IMMEDIATELY AT 800.354.6202. EXPANKO'S WARRANTY DOES NOT COVER CLAIMS ON VISUAL OR DIMENSIONAL DEFECTS.

SHADE VARIATIONS ARE INHERENT IN CORK. It is the responsibility of the installer to blend shades. INSTALLATION OF TILES DEEMS ACCEPTANCE OF SHADE VARIATIONS. "Shuffle" tiles from alternate boxes to help evenly distribute any shade or color variations in tiles.

Cork tile is easily cut using a utility knife with a sharp blade and a straight edge.

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### **INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS USING EXPANKO CORK ADHESIVE:**

Expanko Cork Adhesive is a water-based hard setting adhesive for installing cork tiles on properly prepared concrete or wood substrates. Do not use over existing resilient flooring or other non-porous substrates. Expanko Cork Adhesive is solvent free, low VOC, hard setting and suitable for use over radiant heated floors. Shelf life of Expanko Cork Adhesive if unopened is one year. **DO NOT ALLOW ADHESIVE TO FREEZE.**

Installation **MUST** be done slowly and carefully.

Tools required: Expanko Cork Adhesive, 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" square-notch trowel, utility knife, straight edge, hand roller, 100 lb roller.

1. Apply adhesive in a uniform semi-circle pattern onto the subfloor. When troweling, do not leave ridges in the adhesive from the trowel tip. Troweled adhesive should have a consistent ridge/trowel pattern across the entire floor. Imperfect troweling may telegraph through the finished floor.
2. Allow 10-15 minutes open time before installing cork tiles. Working time after the open time is typically 30-45 minutes. Do not install product on skinned over or dried adhesive.
3. Set tiles into adhesive. Tiles should be tight to each other. Use a hand roller on all tile seams and around walls to assure proper adhesive transfer to tile. If there is no transfer, the adhesive has been left open for too long.
4. 30 minutes after the cork has been laid, roll the floor in both directions with a 100 lb roller. One hour after the first rolling, roll in 2 directions again. If any joints are not flat or bubbles are present, re-roll and apply weight such as sand bags to the particular area for 12 hours.
5. After installation, the flooring will require a minimum of 72 hours to set. Do not allow any foot traffic on floor for at least 12 hours. Do not sand, finish or clean the floor and do not place furniture or allow rolling traffic for at least 72 hours.
6. If any tile edges lift after adhesive is dry, inject Expanko Cork Adhesive under tile and weigh down for 24 hours. Expanko *Repair Instructions for Mis-adhered Tiles* (#116) are available and should be followed.

### **INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS USING EXPANKO WATER-BASED CONTACT ADHESIVE:**

Expanko Water-based Contact Adhesive is used for installing cork tiles on porous and non-porous substrates and to permanently adhered, non-cushioned, clean, existing floor coverings. Expanko Water-based Contact Adhesive is solvent free, low VOC, has high initial strength, can be walked on immediately and is suitable for use over radiant heated floors. Shelf life if unopened is one year. Do not allow to freeze.

Tools required: Expanko Water-based Contact Adhesive (1 can covers 180 sq ft when covering both the tile and the floor), paint roller and tray, utility knife, straight edge, rubber mallet, 100 lb roller.

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Installation using contact adhesive involves applying adhesive to the back of the tile and to the substrate using a medium nap paint roller.

1. To coat the tile, apply adhesive to the back of the floor tile 1 to 24 hours before installation. Be sure the back of the tile is completely covered. There should be no voids.
2. Allow to dry until the adhesive is clear, dry to the touch, and slightly glossy. If you are unsure about coverage, a second coat may be applied once the first coat is dry.
3. Once the adhesive is dry, the tile may be stored front to back (not back to back) and must be installed within 24 hours.
4. To coat the floor, be sure the substrate is smooth and dry, per the Preinstallation Guidelines (#010). Apply the adhesive evenly; making sure the entire substrate is covered.
5. Allow to dry until the adhesive is clear, dry to the touch, and slightly glossy. If you are unsure about coverage a second coat may be applied once the first coat is dry.
6. Once the adhesive is dry, light foot traffic may be allowed on the coated floor. **INSTALL COATED FLOOR TILES WITHIN THREE HOURS AFTER THE FLOOR IS COATED.** If the floor cannot be covered within three hours, an additional coat of adhesive can be applied over the first coat.
7. Carefully set tile in place. Adjust the tile location gently. If the tile is not forced onto the floor, it may be moved slightly.
8. Once the tile is set in place, use a rubber mallet to secure the tile into the adhesive.
9. Roll the entire floor with a 100 lb roller after all tile is set in place.

**Note:** After installation, the flooring will require a minimum of 48 hours to set. Light foot traffic can be allowed on the floor immediately but do not sand, finish or clean the floor and do not place furniture or allow rolling traffic for at least 48 hours.

### AFTER INSTALLATION:

Immediately after installation, remove any excess adhesive left on the floor by gently rubbing with a clean white cloth. If adhesive has dried, use a well-moistened, non-abrasive pad. Do not clean with any type of solvent-based cleaner.

### Protecting the floor:

Unfinished flooring must be covered immediately to protect the surface before finishing. For prefinished floors, if construction will continue after installation, wait for 72 hours and then sweep the floor and cover with brown Kraft paper and protective boards if needed. If the floor is to be covered, be sure to cover the entire floor and do not leave any sections exposed to light.

### Floor Care:

Floor care for cork is sweep and **DAMP MOP ONLY**. Complete *Care and Maintenance Instructions* (#111) are available and should be followed.

It may be advisable to apply additional coat(s) of polyurethane finish to the surface of factory-finished floors. This treatment is optional for residential use and highly recommended for commercial use. Complete instructions (#003) for applying finish are available and should be followed.

All Expanko instructions sited (#'s 010, 116, 111, 003) are available at [www.expanko.com](http://www.expanko.com).